1982-11-22 (Milwaukee AP) - The Army and Hemi-Sync® (11 articles)

(Many newspapers picked up this article.)

1982-11-22
Cedar Rapids Gazette

Listen up, soldier and shoot straight

MILWAUKEE (AP) — The Army is trying to "smooth out the brain waves" of soldiers with stereo sounds in hopes that it will make them shoot straight.

Soldiers with bad aim tend to over-correct and miss again when shooting weapons such as rockets, Army psychologist James Caviness said.

"The result is the rocket will go off course," he said. "This (technique) could help smooth out brain waves" and make it easier for them to shoot.

The Army is testing combinations of tones that stimulate brain waves and purportedly reduce tension and enhance creativity and learning.

It began the testing Oct. 5 on soldiers enrolled in broadcast journalism at the Defense Information School of Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis, the Milwaukee Journal reported Sunday.

The soldiers, wearing stereo headphones, hear two tones which the brain mixes into one. The goal is to teach people to make the harmonious brain waves on their own, without hearing the tones.

An Army document said the stereophonic sounds may be put to use "for better sleep; stress-tension reduction; control of pain; accelarated learning, study and concentration; rapid psychotherapy; enhanced creativity; problem solving; even for playing a better game of golf."

Donald Reich of the Training and Doctrine Command at Fort Monroe, Va., said the Army's main interest in the experiment is finding out if it can help combat troops.

Caviness, an experimental psychologist at Fort Harrison, said the Army is considering using the technique in weapons guidance.

However, Dennis McFadden, a professor of experimental psychology at the University of Texas in Austin, said, "I think the Army is getting boondoggled.

"From the evidence supplied, the claims appear to be based on a misunderstanding of the functioning of the brain," McFadden said.

"It runs against all of what is currently known of how the learning and memory mechanisms work. Were it true, it is remarkable that the scientific community doesn't know about it."

The man who developed the system, Robert Monroe, 67, said that in the past five years he has tested the method on more than 1,300 people at his Monroe Institute of Applied Sciences in Faber, Va., and has been successful in virtually all cases.

He admitted that no one has published articles on the technique in scientific journals, but said, "We have been too busy moving in other directions."

Jack Ruback, dean of the Defense Information School at Fort Harrison, said if tests show Monroe's method holds promise, a scientific study would be arranged to compare the performance of a group hearing the stereo beats with a group that does not.

(The Victoria (Texas) Advocate) Army Hopes to Use Stereo
(Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph) - Army hopes brain-wave tests are on target
(Joplin Globe) - Army Tests Stereo Sharpshooter Training
(Logansport Pharos Tribune) - Brain Wave Control Tried Out by Army
(Madison Wisconsin State Journal) - Get the beat and relax, soldier
(Potomac News) Studying the brain
(Odessa American) - Army waves improve aim
(The Rochester Sentinel) Army tests effect of sound waves on brain
(Annapolis Capital) - Army hopes Stereo will aid aim
(The Leader-Post) US Army testing brain wave theory